

CHASE THE LION

When military veteran amputees form a wheelchair basketball team to get a second chance at life, they face tragedy and adversity on their way to the Paralympics.

by
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BLACK SCREEN

SUPER: "When people are determined, they can overcome anything." Nelson Mandela

FADE IN:

EXT. LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

A working class neighborhood sparkles under the morning sun as birds chirp and squirrels scramble across the lawns of a cul-de-sac in Los Angeles.

A HOUSE ON THE CORNER

Tattered with a humble personality draws our attention to its's front door.

INT. JENNING'S HOUSE - DAY

A living room with modest furniture and modest appliances is cascaded with toys, clothes and military memorabilia.

BATHROOM

A man, KIRK JENNINGS, 30'S, scruffy, somber, subdued and sullen, takes a bath--

SERIES OF SHOTS - Kirk takes a bath:

--He washes his arms...

--Then his back...

--Then his legs, two stubs cut off at the knees.

*

Sun rays bombard Kirk's face as he struggles with the loss of his legs and the journey to get his life back.

Kirk tumbles and stumbles as he forces himself out of the bath tub and onto a towel to dry himself off.

OVER BLACK:

SONGS play over the radio:

TOP 40 MUSIC plays,

The station changes.
HIP HOP MUSIC plays,
The station changes.
COUNTRY MUSIC plays...

EXT. 101 HIGHWAY - DAY

Vehicles drive along the 101 during normal traffic.

We're on a highway.

It's the 101.

Northbound.

BUMPER TO BUMPER CARS

Scheme and wrestle for position along what looks like a pathway to eternity...but it's just a highway.

BAM!

A car CRASHES on the side of the road.

THE SOUND OF COP CARS blaze, drenched in the hazy sun of Los Angeles.

The camera focuses on a single truck:

A BLACK TOYOTA TACOMA

Covered in dirt makes it's way up the maze of steel mayhem called traffic, driven by a man--Kirk.

The highway is flanked by BILLBOARDS advertising Armed Forces recruitment.

ARMY STRONG...GO ARMY...

THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE MARINES...

NAVY...FORGED BY THE SEA...

FLY HIGH...GO AIR FORCE...

It's a 21 gun salute for veterans.

A battered pride boils in Kirk's chest.

INT. SEPULVEDA V.A. HOSPITAL - DAY

This place is worse than a nursing home as veteran seniors await their latest prescriptions, argue with doctors and squabble over old war stories.

DOCTOR'S OFFICE

Kirk gets his monthly check-up to examine his legs and overall health with his primary physician:

DR. ROGERS, 50's, who conducts a medical questionnaire.

DR. ROGERS
Any thoughts of suicide?

Kirk hesitates.

*

KIRK
No.

*

DR. ROGERS
Any thoughts of hurting yourself
or others?

KIRK
No.

DR. ROGERS
Any problems sleeping at night?

KIRK
No.

DR. ROGERS
Well, Kirk your labs look stable
and your overall health is good,
try to refrain from the alcoholic
beverages.

KIRK
I'm still trying to pull myself
together.
(then, re: his legs)
These guys aren't helping me
either.

DR. ROGERS

Most amputees go through a period of withdrawal after initial surgery, however, they are able to recover and transition into a normal lifestyle after therapy and counseling.

KIRK

Can I have my shot?

DR. ROGERS

The naltrexone shot will be ready at the pharmacy window.

KIRK

Thanks.

Dr. Rogers pulls out a business card.

DR. ROGERS

Kirk, here's a card. It's for the Combat Wounded Project. I know one of the coordinators. It's there to help guys like you.

KIRK

Guys like me? I'm fine.

Kirk walks away.

*

DR. ROGERS

Just give it a try. I know a lot of people who went through there and they really liked the program. It's a great outlet to be a part of a team and meet new people. You know, teams build brotherhoods.

KIRK

O.K.. When I get a chance.

Kirk snatches the business card.

*

DR. ROGERS

Your prescription should be ready shortly at the pharmacy window downstairs.

Kirk struggles to put on his prosthetic legs.

INT. VETERANS HOSPITAL - DAY

Kirk receives his monthly shot of Vivitrol, a drug used to curb alcohol cravings. *

He's bent over, pants pulled down part-way, to receive the shot, humbled.

A nurse, ANNA, 40's, administers the shot. *

ANNA

This should hold you over for another month. Remember to read the side effects of the drugs and make sure you eat properly.

Kirk pulls his pants up.

KIRK

I will.

ANNA

How's Sharon and the dog?

KIRK

Sharon's going to school to become a medical technician. The dog's still feisty as usual.

Anna giggles.

ANNA

Tell Sharon I said hi.

Kirk and the Nurse smile at each other.

Kirk leaves.

EXT/INT. KIRK'S TRUCK - TRAVELING - DAY

Kirk travels home from the V.A. after another appointment and takes time to reflect and observe the world around him.

MONTAGE - Kirk drives home from the V.A. Hospital.

--Police arresting a man outside of a liquor store.

--The homeless and homeless encampments.

--Families picking their kids up from school.

END MONTAGE

KIRK'S EYES swell with pain and insecurity.

EXT. KIRK'S HOUSE - DAY

Kirk's truck pulls up to his house.

He stumbles out of his truck.

Kirk's wife, SHARON JENNINGS, 30's, long, honey-blonde hair, dressed in jeans and a t-shirt, Kirk's "rock", comes to the door.

SHARON

Hey, babe.

KIRK

Hey, babe.

The dog, CHARLIE, barks and runs out to Kirk.

KIRK (CONT'D)

(to Charlie)

Hey, boy.

Kirk walks with a slight limp as he approaches the house.

He grabs Sharon, gives her a kiss, they enter the house arm-in-arm.

His son, JOSH, 8, runs out and gives him a big hug.

JOSH

Hey, dad.

KIRK

Hey, kiddo.

JOSH

I taught Charlie how to stand up today.

KIRK

You did?

JOSH

Yup.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Kirk grabs Josh and walks into the house.

*

INT. KIRK'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kirk and his family sit at the dinner table. It's meatloaf and mashed potatoes again as everyone is quiet-- you can even hear the silverware scraping the plates.

SHARON

You forgot to call your mother last week. She's been trying to hunt you down all morning.

KIRK

I'll call her this weekend.

SHARON

We need to start thinking about the kids and school and...

KIRK

--Yeah, I got it.

SHARON

...and the house needs to get refinanced so we can start paying down the credit cards and...

Kirk grows defensive.

KIRK

Not right now, O.K.

Kirk gets up, limps to the bedroom.

BEDROOM

Kirk limps to the dresser and notices himself in the mirror, stares for a moment, doesn't like what he sees, rolls his.

*

FLASHBACK

EXT. SOMEWHERE IN AFGHANISTAN - DAY

Captain Kirk Jennings is on patrol in a HUMVEE with several other soldiers.

It's a long, hot, humid, sweat-hole of a day at the worst place on earth. *

You can see the fear and desperation on the faces of everyone in the vehicle.

HQ SOLDIER (O.S.)
Falcon One this is Bullseye One,
over.

KIRK
This is Falcon One, over.

HQ SOLDIER
State your position.

KIRK
We're currently moving along Route
Tiger, no activity. Everything is
A.O.K..

BOOOOMMM!!!

An IED DETONATES and all hell breaks loose.

There's nothing but smoke, the chaos of gun fire, and screaming.

The screen goes black.

END FLASHBACK

Sharon walks into the bedroom and hugs Kirk from behind.

SHARON
Anything you want to talk about.

KIRK
I can't even provide for my own
family.

SHARON
It's gonna be alright baby. We
just need to be patient with your
disability.

KIRK
I sure hope so.

Sharon kisses Kirk on the nape of his neck.

LIVING ROOM

Later that night Kirk browses images on his computer.

He picks up the card that Dr. Rogers gave him.

INSERT, the card reads: "COMBAT WOUNDED PROGRAM".

BACK TO SCENE.

Kirk looks at the business card, goes to the "COMBAT WOUNDED PROGRAM" website, ponders the program and making a commitment to join a new team. *

Kirk hesitates then makes a choice--

He picks up the phone--

And makes the call--

8-1-8-5-4-2-7-6-8-0.

VOICEMAIL (O.S.)

Hi. This is the Combat Wounded Warriors system answering machine. You have reached us beyond normal business hours. Please leave your name, number and message and we will get back to you at our earliest convenience.

SFX: Beep.

KIRK

(into the phone)

My name is Kirk Jennings. I received your card from the V.A.. I was interested in your program for veterans. My number is: 8-1-8-4-0-1-4-5-4-7.

Kirk hangs up the phone, thinks about the decision he just made.

INT. TELEVISION SHOW SET - DAY

Kirk, a set advisor for a military television show, is on location at a simulated Afghanistan village--it's his first week.

The cast and crew are set up on the "Village" set and ready to shoot an episode of the television series.

DIRECTOR
Aaaaaannnndddd Action!

A HUMVEE bursts from the opposite side of the set, drives down the road, gets hit by an IED.

Flashbacks of his own tragic accident cloud Kirk's mind.

BOOM!!

SMOKE is everywhere.

The VEHICLE stops and the soldiers jump out.

The SOLDIERS are in a firefight with INSURGENT REBELS.

Kirk stands off to the side of the set, looks at the actors, knows that he was in that same situation not too long ago.

We zoom into KIRK'S EYES as we hear the sounds of combat being reenacted on set.

DIRECTOR (O.C.) (CONT'D)
And cut!

A familiar voice, Kirk's co-worker and friend, DUSTY CARTER, 40's, calls Kirk.

DUSTY
Kirk, Kirk, get over here.

Kirk walks across the set, maintains his dignity, conceals the limp of having prosthetic legs, in a slow, meticulous manner.

KIRK
What's up Dusty?

DUSTY
Kirk, that was an awesome scene!
You did one helluva job out there,
man! The action sequences and the
dialogue you gave us made the
scenes pop.

KIRK
Hey, it was nothing.

DUSTY

Well, this is gonna be one great freakin' show.

(beat)

Hey, one of the producers wants to meet you.

Dusty motions across the set to a group of crew men.

DUSTY (CONT'D)

Hey, Dan! Dan. Over here.

DAN GRIFFIN, 50's, salt-and-pepper hair with a \$200 Hollywood haircut, the typical "television producer type", notices Dusty and walks over.

DAN

Dusty.

DUSTY

Hey Dan, this is Kirk, the veteran I was telling you about.

DAN

Oh, you're our guy? Well I just want to say thank you for your service.

KIRK

You're welcome.

Dan gets a touch sentimental.

DAN

I really mean it...Thank you so much. I really appreciate what you guys are doing out there.

(beat)

Hey, I gotta go. Gotta take care of some business.

(to DUSTY)

Dusty, you take care.

Dan pats Kirk on the shoulder then brushes by Kirk and Dusty.

DUSTY

Hey, Kirk, Dan and the rest of the guys really like your work.

They want to keep you on for the season.

KIRK

They want to do what?

DUSTY

They want to keep you on, bud.

Kirk has never been happier in his life.

KIRK

What the...How the...I can't believe--

DUSTY

--Congrats bro.

KIRK

Thanks, man. I owe you big.

The two give each other a buddy hug.

INT. VETERANS ADDICTIVE BEHAVIORS MEETING - NIGHT

Kirk attends a weekly coping meeting that serves as a support group to help veterans readjust to civilian life.

The meeting is headed by CHRIS TURNER, 50's, shorts and t-shirts, scruffy, humbled by a lot of bad life decisions.

CHRIS

(to the group)

Welcome to this edition of the Veterans Coping Network. If you could, please go around and introduce yourself.

The group introduces themselves almost as if this was an AA meeting.

Hi my name is Jeff: I'm an alcoholic,

Hi my name is Susan: I'm a heroin addict,

Hi my name is Jake: I'm a drug addict.

A few more people introduce themselves until we get to Kirk.

Hi my name is Kirk--

Kirk's face shows struggle in his eyes as he gathers the strength to utter the words of submission and courage:

"I'm an alcoholic".

EXT. KIRK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kirk sits outside in his backyard and looks into the distance with a thousand yard stare, but there's nothing there.

Kirk thinks about his life, childhood, family and his legs.

He's a husband, a father, a "bread winner" and needs a plan to get things back on track.

Sharon comes out to the porch with a cordless phone in hand.

SHARON

Honey, there's someone on the phone for you.

KIRK

Yeah, who is it?

SHARON

I don't know. Hold on.

(beat)

They say they're from the Combat Wounded Warriors program. They're returning your phone call from yesterday.

Kirk gets out of his chair, hobbles over to Sharon, grabs the phone.

KIRK

Hello, this is Kirk.

REPRESENTATIVE (O.S.)

Mr. Jennings.

KIRK

Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE (O.S.)

I'm calling to let you know that you've been selected to join the Combat Wounded Warrior basketball program.

KIRK

Thank you...thank you for letting me know.

REPRESENTATIVE (O.S.)

You're very welcome. We're just contacting you to come by to tour the facilities before the program begins next Monday. How does that sound?

KIRK

That sounds great, see you then.

REPRESENTATIVE (O.S.)

Great! Have a good night, Kirk. Bye.

KIRK

Good night.

The two hang-up the phone.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Kirk and Sharon go grocery shopping in the Valley packed with families competing for the last box of low-budget cereal.

KIRK

You know, brand names are overrated.

Kirk glides past the brand name spaghetti sauce and picks up the cheaper brand.

SHARON

Remember, we only have a little bit to spend since we had to pay for your car getting towed last month.

Kirk kneels down, grabs a package of "cheap" spaghetti, then slams it in frustration.

KIRK

Damn.

SHARON

Kirk.

KIRK

What?

SHARON

We just have to trim the fat,
that's all.

Kirk concedes, selects the very best packet of the "cheap" spaghetti, puts it in the cart and proceeds down the aisle.

KIRK

The place my doctor referred me to
called me.

SHARON

Oh, you mean the wounded warrior
place for vets.

KIRK

I was invited to come in for an
interview tomorrow.

SHARON

That's great, Kirk.

KIRK

They want me to meet with the team
and take a tour of the facility.

SHARON

The team?

KIRK

I'm joining the basketball team.

SHARON

The basketball team?

KIRK

Yeah, I haven't played ball since I was in college. It'll be fun.

SHARON

Well, alright.

Kirk and Sharon load a few more items into the shopping cart and proceed down the aisle to the cash register.

CHECK OUT LANE

They unload all of their groceries onto the food platform.

The cashier checks the items and gives a sly peek up to Kirk and Sharon who have guilty looks on their faces.

The cashier finishes checking the groceries.

CASHIER

That'll be \$185.86.

Kirk and Sharon look at each other.

Kirk, embarrassed, carefully selects groceries to put back on the shelf.

Sharon exchanges eye contact with the cashier, hands her a credit card.

SHARON

Here.

The cashier, sympathetic, accepts Sharon's card.

CASHIER

Tell you what, I'll apply my employee discount to your purchase, how's that?

SHARON

Thank you.

Kirk, returns.

KIRK

Hey, babe, we good?

SHARON

Yeah, babe.

Kirk and Sharon leave.

INT. COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS CENTER - DAY

The Combat Wounded Veterans Center is where our nation's wounded warriors come to partake in various sports activities to transition back into civilian life.

We meet Coach MARCUS JAMES, African-American, 50's,.

Coach James meets with the Operations Manager, CHARLES MONTGOMERY, 50's.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

Hey Coach, glad you can make it.

COACH JAMES

Thanks Chuck, although meeting with you can only mean one thing...trouble.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

Just got word from the finance committee that things are going to be changing around here.

COACH JAMES

--I know where this is going...

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

--Marcus come on...

COACH JAMES (CONT'D)

--Look why don't you just

CHARLES MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)

We gotta cut back on some of the programs and I just don't know where the axe is going to fall yet.

*

COACH JAMES

--They're cutting basketball.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

I'm not saying that, I'm just saying that cuts are coming and a few programs may get hit.

A pause.

COACH JAMES

You're ridiculous.

Coach James gets up and walks out of the room.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

Coach. Marcus!

Charles Montgomery follows Coach James into the gym.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)

Coach. Marcus.

COACH JAMES

I don't have the time, Chuck. I'm too old for this.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

You're being unreasonable.

Charles Montgomery catches up to Coach James.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)

Just hear me out. The cuts won't happen for a while, maybe a long while.

COACH JAMES

I smell a rat.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

What?

Coach James starts walking again.

Charles Montgomery follows, stops Coach James and lands on the half-court logo.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)

Talk to me.

COACH JAMES

Somebody's filling their pockets and I don't like it.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

Aw come on.

COACH JAMES

Come on nothing. Somebody's filling their pockets. I don't like it.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

Marcus the cuts are to get a hold on finances and trim the fat...

COACH JAMES

--Really?

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

Yes, Really.

COACH JAMES

Well, explain that to all those veterans who are going to have nothing when the smoke clears.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

There will be other programs.

COACH JAMES

Not like this one.

Coach James walks off.

Charles Montgomery is left on the half court line to think about what he has just done.

INT. COACH JAMES'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Coach James watches old videos of his former wheelchair basketball teams.

A pan of Coach James' house shows that he was in the military--an Army Major.

More shots show Coach James with two children and a wife.

Even more shots show two folded flags, for the deceased.

INT. COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS CENTER - DAY

A meeting with Coach James, Kirk, and several other wheelchair veterans and personnel is held.

The men are scruffy, hats-to-the-back, unaware of the journey that they're about to embark on.

Coach James takes the center of the room to speak.

COACH JAMES

Welcome, team. My name is Coach James and I'll be working with you over the next few months to mold and shape you to be the very best players, teammates and professionals that you can possibly be.

The room is silent, all eyes are focused on Coach James.

COACH JAMES (CONT'D)

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. We win together, or we don't win at all. Can I get an Amen?

No answers, just blank stares.

COACH JAMES (CONT'D)

I'll take that as a yes.

Out of nowhere, Kirk pops-up and asks a question.

KIRK

So where does all of this lead to? I mean, are we just going to play pick-up ball for the rest of our lives.

COACH JAMES

We're training to play for the World Paralympic Games later this year.

The room lightens up.

COACH JAMES (CONT'D)

But they're not gonna to give it to us. We gotta earn it.

The room is silent.

Everyone looks at each other with a silent gaze.

COACH JAMES (CONT'D)

The foundation of our team is
teamwork and the foundation of
teamwork is discipline.

The room is focused on Coach James.

COACH JAMES (CONT'D)

We are each other's keeper and we
look out for each other as such.
Is that understood?

*

A pause, then a flurry of agreements murmur from the
crowd.

Another man, an assistant coach, COACH GARY MORRIS, 40's,
interjects--

COACH MORRIS

Now that we had our little
introduction, how about everybody
introduce themselves. Lets start
on the right side and go across
the room.

One by one the group introduces themselves.

The first person CARMELO RODRIGUEZ, Mexican, 30's, double
amputee, salt-and-pepper hair with matching goatee,
speaks first--

CARMELO

Hi, my name is Carmelo
Rodriguez...and I'm an amputee, in
case you haven't noticed.

The room chuckles.

CARMELO (CONT'D)

I wanted to be an airplane pilot
when I got out. But since I lost
these...

(to his legs,
slapping them)

That dream had took a back seat.
But I'm stronger now, and I'm here
to play some ball.

The crowd gives a light clap.

The next person, COWBOY, 30's, African-American, lost one leg, he wears a cowboy hat.

COWBOY

My name is Cowboy. They call me that because I used to be wild stallion when I was in. I'm still a cowboy, but just ain't as quick as I used to be.

JASON BREEZE, 30's, honey-blond dusty hair with a goatee to match, speaks.

JASON

Hi, my name is Jason. I'm just happy to be here and am looking forward to being a part of a team. Don't really got a lot of dreams to talk about, I just want to do the best I can to contribute.

The next person, Kirk, speaks:

KIRK

Hi, my name is Kirk and I'm an alcoholic.

The room laughs.

KIRK (CONT'D)

No seriously. I lost my legs in Afghanistan and I never looked back since. I'm lookin' to play some basketball and have some fun while making new friends.

The group continues to introduce themselves one-by-one.

SOME TIME LATER

The introductory meeting convenes and the players are scattered to mingle amongst themselves.

Kirk sits by himself, his head hangs.

Another amputee, CRAIG "SCOOP" MILLER, from Philly, a double leg amputee with a scarred face, rolls his wheelchair over to Kirk.

SCOOP

Hey, Kirk, what's up man? I'm scoop.

KIRK

Hey, what's up?

SCOOP

How long have ya been in the dirt?

KIRK

Been in the dirt?

SCOOP

You know, how long have you been an amputee?

KIRK

A little over two years now.

SCOOP

Don't worry too much about it, you're among family now. We got your back.

KIRK

Where were you two years ago when I was in the hospital?

SCOOP

Life goes on...don't sit here and blame yourself for something you can't control.

Kirk gives Scoop a blank look of disbelief.

KIRK

I just want to play some basketball.

SCOOP

I know you're angry, man. We're all very angry. But in life there are second chances.

KIRK

I'll believe it when I see it.

SCOOP

Do you think that you're the only one that lost his life when he lost his legs? We all died out there. We've just gotta get back up.

Kirk thinks about this.

KIRK

Why do you even care about what I do? I'm here today and gone tomorrow.

*

SCOOP

I care because I was hurting just like you, but I made it out and I'm a new man. I don't want to see you lose.

KIRK

Thanks.

The two men look at each other.

SCOOP

I'm here for you.

Scoop extends his hand.

Kirk grabs it.

The two hug.

EXT. OUTDOOR TRACK - DAY

An outdoor high school track where there aren't many people.

Cowboy, equipped with a BladeRunner, the prosthetic running device used by athletic amputees, steps onto the track.

Cowboy is in the middle of the track in the "set" position, looks out into the open, focused, thinks for a moment.

An imaginary starting pistol fires inside Cowboy's head and...we're off.

Cowboy sprints down the track, all of a sudden...

He trips...falls down...rolls over onto his side.
Defeated.

EXT. CARMELO'S HOME - OUTSIDE PORCH - DAY

Carmelo sits outside on his porch while his family is inside.

His kids play in the background, they call for their daddy.

Carmelo just stares into the open.

Voice-over chatter that one would hear in a an airplane cockpit plays.

AIR CONTROLLER (V.O.)

We are preparing to land.
Dispatching landing gear...

Carmelo stares, wishing he could fly among the birds.

Carmelo extends his arms out to his sides as if he was flying like a bird...soaring through the sky.

EXT. SKID ROW - DAY

Jason dribbles a basketball by himself in a driveway just off of the main street somewhere on Skid Row.

Jason dribbles, faster and faster, thinks to himself and hears voices from the past.

His Father:

JASON'S FATHER (V.O.)

I don't want no goddamn queer in
my house. Get outta here and
don't come back!

Random voices of guys taunting him.

GUYS (V.O.)

Well, well, well look at the homo.

Jason reflects as his dribbles become more and more faint.

Jason stops dribbling and just gazes into nowhere.

INT. FOX STUDIOS - TELEVISION SHOW SET. - DAY

The cast and crew are filming a new episode of the hot new military show with Kirk on set as a technical advisor.

The actors are "on their 1's" and are ready to start.

It's a hospital scene, a conclusion from the prior scene where the convoy was attacked, this time one of the men is in the hospital.

Several of the ACTORS cuddle around one of their comrades straddled in a hospital bed, he's injured.

DIRECTOR

Aaaannnnddd action.

ACTOR 1

(to the actor in the
bed)

You're not alone buddy, we're here
for you no matter what.

Another actor enters the scene, he's a DOCTOR.

DOCTOR

(to the actors)

Your friend will never be able to
use his legs again.

The room is silent.

The actor in the hospital bed begins to sob.

The other actors begin to sob.

We cut to Kirk's face and zoom into his eyes, this scene is personal to him.

The other actors form a group hug around the actor in the hospital bed.

DIRECTOR

Aaaaannnnddd cuutt.

The actors reset and break into their separate directions.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

That was great guys.

(then)

Dusty, come here!

Dusty, who's off to the side, is alerted and walks over to the director.

DUSTY

Yeah, what's up?

DIRECTOR

Your military buddy--you know the Army guy--is genius. I love this scene that he did for us.

DUSTY

He's good isn't he.

DIRECTOR

Where is he?

Dusty motions over to the corner where Kirk is standing.

DUSTY

He's over there.

DIRECTOR

Call him over here.

DUSTY

Sure.

(then, to Kirk)

Hey, Kirk...Kirk.

Kirk looks up and acknowledges Dusty calling him.

DUSTY (CONT'D)

Kirk, come here for a second.

Kirk hobbles over to Dusty and the director.

DUSTY (CONT'D)

Hey, Kirk. We really like your work, man.

KIRK

Thanks again.

DIRECTOR

Man, where are you getting this stuff?

KIRK

I don't like to tell...but...but...

Suddenly, Kirk pauses, we see Kirk's point of view.

The surroundings begin to get blurry and spooky.

The images of Dusty and the director get blurry.

Flashback sounds begin to appear from Kirk's days in Afghanistan.

DUSTY (O.C.)

Kirk, Kirk, you gonna say something?

KIRK

I just... I jus'

Kirk's point of view is getting more and more blurry.

DUSTY (O.C.)

Kirk. Kirk!

Suddenly, we see Kirk losing his control.

Kirk passes out and falls to the ground.

The room hears a crashing sound.

Everyone's scrambling.

DUSTY (CONT'D)

Kirk, Kirk, Kirk.

Kirk is laying on the ground, unconscious.

DIRECTOR (O.C.)

Somebody call an ambulance!

The screen goes blank while we hear commotion and screaming in the background.

INT. VA HOSPITAL - DAY

Kirk lays in the hospital bed surrounded by DOCTORS and NURSES.

KIRK

I don't know what happened, I just fainted.

DOCTOR

Well, we'll see what's wrong with you when the labs come back in a few days.

Sharon bursts into the room in a panic.

SHARON

Kirk, Kirk baby are you alright.

KIRK

Yeah, yeah I'm o.k..

Kirk, ashamed of what happened, not being able to shake it, off is reluctant to speak too much.

SHARON

Aw, baby...

KIRK

I said...I'm o.k.

The room is silent.

DOCTOR

You're going to have to take it easy until we find out what's wrong with you.

KIRK

Take it easy as in what?

DOCTOR

As in, no alcohol, no sweets and stay off the legs for a little while.

SHARON

(to the doctor)

What do you think could be wrong?

DOCTOR

It's hard to tell right now. We have to do some tests to determine a reasonable cause.

KIRK

How long will that take?

SHARON

Kirk needs to get back to work.

DOCTOR

Maybe a few weeks or longer.

Kirk and Sharon are bewildered.

SHARON

What can we do?

DOCTOR

We just need you to be patient.

KIRK

Thanks.

DOCTOR

You have my card. Feel free to call me with questions.

The doctor leaves the room.

Kirk and Sharon are left in the room to think of a plan of what to do next.

INT. COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS CENTER - DAY

Kirk, Coach James and the rest of the team have their first practice.

The team, in wheelchairs, scramble across the basketball court throwing passes and making shots.

COACH JAMES

Alright team, let's go.

*

Cowboy makes a sharp pass to Kirk who drives past Jason.

The whole room cheers.

COACH JAMES (CONT'D)

Go Kirk!

COWBOY

Nice shot.

Kirk blushes.

Scoop wheels over to give Kirk a fist-bump.

SCOOP

There you go buddy. That's how
you do it.

KIRK

Thanks, Scoop.

COACH JAMES

Alright, everybody let's run it
again.

This time, Scoop tries to pass the ball to another
player.

Kirk intercepts the pass, takes the ball to the other end
of the court, scores again.

Carmelo takes the ball and starts doing tricks with it.

CARMELO

I feel like I'm playing for the
Harlem Globetrotters.

COWBOYS

We're the wheelchair
Temptations...

(singing)

"I've got sunshine on a cloudy
day..."

CARMELO

(singing)

"When it's cold outside, I've got
the month of May..."

The team begins to sing.

EVERYBODY

(singing)

"Well, I...guess...you'd
say...What can make me feel this
way?"

COACH JAMES

(singing)

My girl...my girl, my girl.

EVERYBODY

(singing)

Talkin' bout my girl...my girl.

CENTER COURT

Practice is over and the team is chatting it up, they
start talking about how they lost their legs.

KIRK

...we got hit by an ambush then an
I.E.D. went off and the last thing
I saw was black. I woke up in the
hospital a few days later and felt
a numbing in my legs. The doc
broke the news to my wife and I,
and that was the end of my
military career.

COACH JAMES

Thanks, Kirk for sharing.

(then)

Alright, Scoop.

SCOOP

I lost my legs while doing recon
in Iraq and never looked back
since. I feel great and I'm
looking forward to a new day. I'm
no longer married...but that's
alright as long as I get to play
basketball, that's what's right.

The room is silent.

COACH JAMES

Hey, Scoop we're here if you need
us.

CARMELO

My turn.

COACH JAMES

Go ahead, Carmelo.

CARMELO

We were flying over Baghdad
looking for some terrorist dude
and the rotor wing went out. We
came crashing down like a bolt of
lightning. I thought I was in
heaven for a while having to
answer for my sins. Damn! I just
wish I was with my team and could
fly again.

COACH JAMES

Thanks Carmelo.

Jason starts to speak--

JASON

I was on patrol when I lost my arm
and leg. I was platoon sergeant
and I...I let my team down. Now I
just want to be there for my new
team...you guys.

EVERYBODY

Thanks Jason.

COWBOY

I lost my legs dancing with an
I.E.D. But I didn't lose the
fight. My name is Cowboy and I'm
a wrangler and I ain't give up on
nothin' yet. You can bet on that.

The team cheers for Cowboy.

EVERYBODY

Go Cowboy... Yee-hah.

COWBOY

Hell yeah.

Coach James takes the stand.

COACH JAMES

It's times and moments like this
that makes us stronger. We are
one now. One team. One fight. One
spirit.

JASON

This is the closest I felt to
being in a unit for a long time.

KIRK

I'm not going to let my team down
again.

SCOOP

You never let anyone down, Kirk.
This wasn't your fault.

COWBOY

Hey, brotha you ain't no different
than anyone else here.

CARMELO

We ride together. We fly
together.

The team begins to form a tight circle.

COWBOY

(starting to sing
lightly)

I've...got sunshine...on a cloudy
day...

CARMELO

(singing)

When it's cold outside, I've got
the month of May...

EVERYBODY

(singing)

Well, I...guess...you...say...what
can make me feel this way...my
girl...my girl...my girl...

INT. COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS CENTER - DAY

Coach James meets with Charles Montgomery to discuss the
program.

COACH JAMES

What are we going to do about the guys?

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

San Diego has a program. We can send them down there if we have to.

COACH JAMES

This program is all these guys have. This is their last chance.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

Its everybody's last chance, Marcus.

COACH JAMES

End of season, huh.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

We close the doors a week after the last game.

A pause.

COACH JAMES

Screw this. Screw you. Screw this scamming, cheating organization.

Coach James storms out of the room.

Charles Montgomery just looks as Coach James exits the room.

EXT. KIRK'S HOUSE - DAY

Kirk and the team have a barbecue at his house: food, ice igloos, and kids are all over the place.

The kids are playing in the yard, blowing bubbles, tackling each other--black kids and white kids, younger and older.

Wives chit-chat and show each other baby pics.

KIRK

You guys want some burgers?

COACH JAMES

I'll take two with cheese and hot sauce.

CARMELO

You guys got any Miller Lite?

KIRK

Sorry man, we have a house policy of no alcohol in the house or around the kids.

COWBOY

Alright, I like that.

CARMELO

Alright cool, give me a Ginger Ale.

Kirk tosses Carmelo a Canada Dry Ginger Ale.

KIRK

(to Carmelo)

Here you go.

SCOOP

You're gonna need all the strength you can get, Kirk. I owe you for scoring on me.

KIRK

I'll be waiting. I can see you coming, boss.

Everyone laughs.

All of a sudden there is commotion among the children in the yard.

The children are huddled in a small semi circle around something.

Kirk notices the semi-circle.

KIRK (CONT'D)

Sharon, hey Sharon.

Sharon rushes out of the house and notices the circle of kids.

SHARON

Oh my God.

Sharon rushes over to the kids.

SHARON (CONT'D)

(to Kirk, screaming)

Kirk, Kirk.

The group is alarmed.

Kirk stands up and hobbles over to the children, the other men follow.

They approach the children who surround a kid choking on the ground, it's Kirk's kid, Josh. *

Nobody knows what to do.

Scoop bursts through the crowd and gives Josh the Heimlich Maneuver, hits Josh on the back, gives several abdominal thrusts--

SCOOP

Come on boy, you can do it.

Josh dislodges the toy coin through his mouth and begins to cry,

Kirk grabs Josh and gives him a hug,

The crowd is stunned.

COWBOY

Way to go Scoop.

Kirk looks up at Scoop. *

KIRK

I don't know how to repay you.

SCOOP

You don't have to repay anything.
We look out for each other,
remember that.

Scoop just walks away.

MOMENTS LATER

The team is having an intimate talk.

KIRK

Sharon wants to have another one and move to Glendale, but I need to find a steady job before we can do anything.

SCOOP

I know the feeling. I remember when I was with my wife, she wanted to move up to Santa Barbara. I just want to get up enough cash now to get my own boat and just sail away...and not look back.

CARMELO

(to Jason)

Hey Jason, what about your family. You got any kids.

Jason sits, thinks about his answer for a moment.

JASON

I only have my dad left, he won't speak to me after I came out. He was this big Navy guy that just couldn't live with his son being...well, you know...gay.

Everyone is silent.

JASON (CONT'D)

Maybe one day I'll get the guts to just go over to his house and give him a big hug.

Everyone chuckles.

COWBOY

I'm going to take my BladeRunner and jump in a race with regular people and run.

The room is full of reflection and reminiscing.

The guys sit out on the porch and talk until the sun goes down. They reminisce and dream...become brothers.

INT. V.A. HOSPITAL - DAY

Kirk arrives at the V.A. Hospital for a routine check-up.

Kirk approaches the RECEPTIONIST.

KIRK

(to the receptionist)

Hi, my name is Kirk and I'm here
for my 10:00 a.m. appointment.

RECEPTIONIST

I.D. Card please.

Kirk hands the receptionist his i.d. card.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

The doctor will be with you
momentarily.

A few hours pass by.

Kirk approaches the receptionist.

KIRK

Hi, um...I've been waiting here
for two hours and no one has come
to get me.

RECEPTIONIST

Sir, you'll just have to be
patient. The doctors are all
backlogged and will get to you..

KIRK

--Two hours is a bit long for
backlog, don't you think?

RECEPTIONIST

Sir, you will just have to be...

KIRK

--I want to see a doctor!

Kirk makes a scene.

RECEPTIONIST

Sir, there isn't a doctor available to see you. You will just have to wait for a little while...

KIRK

You know what, I've had enough of this. You can cancel my appointment.

Kirk storms out of the V.A..

INT. KIRK'S HOUSE - DAY

Kirk sits by himself at home.

Kirk does the unthinkable--takes a drink out of a fifth to soothe the pain.

Kirk drinks until he passes out.

INT. HOMELESS SHELTER - DAY

Coach James enters a homeless shelter somewhere on Skid Row.

The streets are littered with homeless, trash and rap music.

A cop car dashes by with sirens screaming as the latest public disturbance candidate awaits their arrival.

Coach James maneuvers around a homeless resident being attended to by paramedics and approaches the front desk of the shelter.

COACH JAMES

Jason Campbell, please.

The attendant, hesitates, then directs Coach James:

ATTENDANT

Jason is waiting for you. You can go upstairs to room #280.

COACH JAMES

How do I get to his room?

ATTENDANT

Go through the two doors and up the steps to the second floor. Turn left. Go down the hall. Last door at the end of the hallway.

Coach James moves out to Jason's room.

The hallways are dark and spooky as Coach James winds his way up the staircase--cautiously strolls down the hallway--approaches room #280.

A carved "FAGGOT" embroiders Jason's door.

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

The door creeps open.

COACH JAMES

Jason.

JASON

Yeah.

COACH JAMES

I'm here to pick you up for practice.

JASON

Alright. I'm coming.

Coach James slides into Jason's shoebox-sized room.

COACH JAMES

You alright?

JASON

Of course. Nothing's ever wrong with me. I'm just a homeless, gay guy livin' in Los Angeles.

COACH JAMES

Hey, Jason...

JASON

No need to pity me. I give myself enough pity. Nowhere to go but up.

Jason puts on his prosthetic leg and hobbles up to Coach James.

JASON (CONT'D)

How you doin', Coach

COACH JAMES

I'm doing well, Jason. I'm doing
just fine. Let's get outta here.

The two leave for practice.

INT. COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS CENTER - DAY

The team has their very first game against a wheelchair
team from the Orange County area.

The team is in mid-stride.

It's the fourth quarter and the team is up by six points.

Kirk has the ball and charges up the court going coast to
coast.

He passes the ball to Scoop,

Scoop passes the ball to Jason,

Jason shoots the ball, misses.

Kirk rebounds and puts the ball in the hoop.

The opposing team gets the ball,

They pass the ball down the court,

They shoot. Score.

Kirk inbounds the ball, passes it to Jason.

Jason passes it to Cowboy on a long pass.

Cowboy shoots a long range jump shot. Scores.

BUZZER SOUNDS.

The final bell rings and the team wins their first game.

The crowd cheers and everyone is congratulating the team.

COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS CENTER - DAY

The team is playing another game at the veterans center.

Kirk passes the ball to Cowboy who hits a long-range two-pointer.

The crowd cheers.

An opposing TEAM MEMBER comes out of nowhere and crashes into Kirk's wheelchair.

KIRK

Hey, this ain't rugby bud!

TEAM MEMBER

Get a life.

Kirk rolls his eyes.

SCOOP

(to Kirk)

Don't let them get into your head.

Sharon looks on from the stands.

SHARON

Keep your head up Kirk!

Kirk thinks for a moment, catches a second wind.

Jason inbounds a pass to Cowboy.

Cowboy dribbles the ball, passes it to Jason.

Jason dribbles the ball, passes it to Scoop.

Scoop passes it to Carmelo.

Carmelo shoots the ball, misses.

Kirk gets the rebound; looks for the open man,

Everybody's guarded.

Kirk is alone facing the man that hit him earlier.

SWOOSH.

Kirk hits the shot.

The crowd goes wild.

INTERCUT - KIRK / THE TEAM / SHARON

KIRK

Yes!

CARMELO

Go Kirk.

COWBOY

My main man.

JASON

Yes, Kirk!

SCOOP

Like I told you, Kirk.

SHARON

That's my baby!

The game is over and the men head to the locker room.

LOCKER ROOM

The team meets in the locker room to go over the winning game.

COACH JAMES

Hey, good work out there team.
That's what I want to see,
teamwork and discipline.

SCOOP

(sounding somber)

I want to take this time to give a
special thank you to a very
special person, Mr. Kirk Jennings
for scoring on those guys out
there and owning the court.

The room erupts in laughter and cheer.

CARMELO

I want to shout out to Cowboy for
being a wrangler out there and
holding it down.

EVERYBODY

Cowboy!

COWBOY

I want to thank this whole room
for standing up and coming
together like a team. We goin'
all the way baby.

Charles Montgomery enters the room to make a few
statements.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

Team, I have great news straight
from the Paralympic Committee. The
letter reads: It is the honor of
the Paralympic Committee to invite
the Combat Veterans Program to
represent the United States in the
Paralympic Games in London.

The room goes wild.

EVERYBODY

Yeah! Yeah!

The team exchanges hugs to each other.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

Congratulations, team and good
luck on getting out there.

COACH JAMES

Thanks, Chuck.

(to the team)

Team, this is the moment that
we've been waiting for. We'll be
ready when the games come.

The room begins to chant.

EVERYBODY

(singing)

We...ready. We...ready. We...ready
for y'all.

Then again.

EVERYBODY (CONT'D)
 We...ready we...ready we...ready
 for..y'all.

EXT. COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS CENTER - CONTINUOUS

The team and personnel are leaving the facility after receiving word that they made it to the Paralympics.

As the team exits the building, they are ambushed by a school of NEWS REPORTERS.

COWBOY
 What the hell is this?

KIRK
 We got cameras.

The news reporters rush over to the team.

NEWS REPORTER #1
 Excuse me. Excuse me. You got a
 minute?

KIRK
 What is it?

NEWS REPORTER
 We're with KPLA News and wanted to
 talk to you about the controversy
 surrounding the Combat Wounded
 Organization.

KIRK
 Really, I didn't know there was a
 controversy surrounding the
 organization.

COACH JAMES
 The Combat Wounded Organization
 isn't in any kind of trouble.

NEWS REPORTER
 Didn't you hear, several of the
 board members have resigned amid a
 scandal involving the misuse of
 funds to support personal gifts.

The organization is in turmoil and there are rumors of it shutting down in the fall.

KIRK

(to the news reporters)

What the hell are you talkin' about?

(then, to Coach James)

Coach, you know what these people are sayin'?

Coach James is frozen silent.

CARMELO (O.C.)

Coach, coach you know anything about this?

NEWS REPORTER

Coach James do you have any comments about the allegations of corruption within the Combat Wounded Organization?

Coach James is shocked, speechless.

JASON

What the hell is going on here, coach.

COACH JAMES

I don't know, but we're gonna find out real soon.

INT. COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS CENTER - DAY

The team receives a briefing from Charles Montgomery regarding the future of the program.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

As you all have heard, the organization has been in a bit of a jam.

KIRK

Does this mean no more programs.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

Yeah.

SCOOP

Where do we go from here?

CARMELO

The closest vet program for sports is located in San Diego.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

The program will close in the Fall after the end of the Warrior Games.

COWBOY

Damn! I knew something was going to happen.

Cowboy wheels away.

COACH JAMES

It's not the end of the world. There will be other programs that will do the same things that we did here.

KIRK

What about the games? Are we still in?

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

We're still eligible and will be funded enough to make it to the games.

CARMELO

You know, I should have known that this whole thing was too good to be true. We did all of this male bonding for nothing.

Carmelo wheels off.

KIRK

After the games are over, we got nothing.

Kirk wheels off.

COACH JAMES

Hey, Kirk...

Scoop looks at Coach James and Charles Montgomery and just wheels off.

JASON

Thanks for nothing.

Jason wheels off.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

Geez.

The rest of the team wheels off leaving only Coach James and Charles Montgomery alone.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)

I don't know what we're going to do with these guys.

COACH JAMES

Whatever, we're gonna do, we gotta do it soon before this whole team falls apart.

The two men stand alone on half court.

INT. VA HOSPITAL - DAY

Another dull day at the hospital for Kirk and Sharon but today holds more to bargain than expected.

A doctor enters the room with a folder in his hand.

DOCTOR

Well, the results are in Kirk and it appears that you may have a case peripheral artery disease.

KIRK

Peripheral what?

SHARON

Kirk...

DOCTOR

Peripheral Artery Disease, its a precursor to coronary heart disease...a potential cause of major complications in amputees.

KIRK

You gotta be kiddin' me.

SHARON

What does this all mean?

DOCTOR

It means that Kirk may experience some complications moving forward that may inhibit him to work, and even walk again.

Kirk and Sharon are stunned.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Our best bet is to be patient and wait things out.

SHARON

Is Kirk going to need surgery?

DOCTOR

Yes.

KIRK

How risky is the procedure?

DOCTOR

Very risky.

Kirk and Sharon feel a fear that they have never felt before.

KIRK

I gotta work doc. I got mouths to feed. What am I gonna do?

SHARON

Kirk, no need to get upset. It's not the doctor's fault.

KIRK

Then, whose fault is it?

DOCTOR

Patients experience these emotions
all of the time.

KIRK

Damn it! Why do these things keep
happening to me?

DOCTOR

The V.A. provides coping groups
for individuals and their
families. I can refer you to one
if you would like.

SHARON

Thank you, doctor.

KIRK

Yeah, thanks.

DOCTOR

I'm so sorry for the bad news.

The Doctor leaves the room.

Kirk and Sharon are once again faced with a major
milestone.

INT. COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS CENTER - DAY

Coach James is shooting hoops by himself.

Kirk wheels in.

KIRK

I didn't think that you'd have the
guts to come back here given all
the crap that's going on.

COACH JAMES

Just getting in some valuable time
alone.

KIRK

Decided to get away from the
family, huh?

COACH JAMES

Don't have much of a family
nowadays.

KIRK

Oh. Sorry about that.

COACH JAMES

It's been a while.

Coach James takes another shot, gets the rebound and passes the ball to Kirk.

Kirk takes a shot and makes it.

KIRK

I don't know what to do. I got nowhere to go.

COACH JAMES

Things'll get better.

KIRK

It just makes me so angry. Damn!

COACH JAMES

Hey, things will get better. This is just part of the journey.

KIRK

It's just been one thing after another.

Coach James drops the ball and walks over to Kirk.

COACH JAMES

Look. Listen to me. You can't tell me how bad things can get. I lost both my boys in Iraq. Both of them. My wife died last year of cancer. Don't tell me about how you have nothing.

Kirk looks at Coach James with sympathy.

COACH JAMES (CONT'D)

I pray everyday, hoping that this is all some sort of dream. But it ain't.

KIRK

Sorry coach.

COACH JAMES

Don't be sorry. This is all I got. You guys are my way of reconciling with God.

KIRK

I think I'm going to die coach.

Coach James pauses and looks at Kirk who begins to break down emotionally.

KIRK (CONT'D)

I think I'm gonna die and leave Sharon and Jason alone. I don't know what to do, coach. The doctor just told me I have P.A.D. What the hell am I gonna do?

Kirk begins to cry.

Coach James consoles and hugs Kirk.

COACH JAMES

Everything's gonna be alright. We just gotta work through it.

KIRK

I don't know if I can make it another day, man.

COACH JAMES

I lost everything, man. I know what it means to be where you are. We're going to make it through this thing together.

The two hug.

INT. COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS CENTER - DAY

The team plays its final game, the championship game, in front of a sold out gymnasium, the crowd roars.

COACH JAMES

Let's go team. Play tough!

Sharon sits in the crowd routing for Kirk and the team.

SHARON'

Go, Kirk. Go team!

Kirk gets a bounce pass from Cowboy, takes the ball to the other end of the court, scores.

Then.

The opponent gets the ball, travels to the other end of the court and scores.

All tied up now.

Carmelo gets a pass from Scoop, takes it the distance and scores!

Finally, Jason weaves past two defenders, takes a long distance shot and scores!!!

The crowd goes wild.

The building erupts with cheer as the benches pour onto the floor.

CARMELO

We did it. We won.

SCOOP

We won it, baby!

KIRK

We're champions.

Moments later a trophy ceremony takes place to award the teams participating in the basketball league their trophies.

An ANNOUNCER is the M.C. for the trophy ceremony.

ANNOUNCER

I would like to conclude this year's wheelchair basketball league with the trophy presentation to the participants.

The presenter grabs the third place trophy.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Third place goes to the San Diego team for outstanding performance in the playoffs.

The crowd applauds and cheers.

The presenter grabs the second place trophy and gives it to the second place team.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Second place goes to the Encino team.

The crowd cheers.

CROWD

Go Encino!

The presenter grabs the first place trophy and gives it to Coach James, Kirk and the team.

ANNOUNCER

And for the first prize...the first prize goes to the Valley Team led by Coach James and the Combat Wounded Veteran Center.

The room goes wild.

Coach James receives the trophy from the Announcer and passes it to Kirk who is seated next to him.

Kirk passes the trophy to the rest of the team who passes to each other as they kiss and hug the trophy.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

And I would like to add that the Valley Team will be representing the U.S. in this year's Paralympic games.

The crowd fills the room with applauds and whistles.

Coach James takes the podium.

COACH JAMES

Thank you all for your continued support. If it weren't for you, these guys would not have a place to call home. Thanks.

Coach James takes off his hat and waves it to the crowd.

The crowd gives Coach James and the team a standing ovation.

EXT. SCOOP'S HOUSE - DAY

Kirk pulls up to Scoop's house, hops out of the Tacoma, limps to the front door of Scoop's home--rings the doorbell.

No answer.

Kirk rings the doorbell again,

No answer.

Kirk knocks on the door,

No answer.

Kirk knocks again, even harder...

KIRK
(through the door)
Hey Scoop...

Bang. Bang. Bang...

Bang. Bang. Bang...

Silence.

Kirk ponders, he toggles the handle of the door, the door creeps open.

KIRK (CONT'D)
Scoop? Scoop.

Kirk enters Scoop's house.

Scoop's dog, ROGER, sits in the middle of the living room...sobs.

KIRK (CONT'D)
Hey, Scoop where are you man?

No answer.

Kirk walks through Scoops home...

He checks the kitchen...

KIRK (CONT'D)
Scoop...

The bedroom...no Scoop.

KIRK (CONT'D)

Scoop...

A quick look out to the back yard...nothing.

KIRK (CONT'D)

Scoop...

Kirk looks around to see nothing but Roger who weeps in the middle of the living room.

There is only one place to look--the bathroom towards the back of the house.

Kirk heads to the bathroom with its door cracked open.

Kirk runs to the bathroom.

Kirk enters the bathroom to see Scoop, naked as he hangs from the shower head.

Dead.

KIRK (CONT'D)

Scoop!! Scoop!!

Kirk rushes over to Scoop's limp body, unties the body and embraces Scoop's lifeless body in his arms.

KIRK (CONT'D)

Scoop! Scoop! Damn it, why'd you do this to me man?

Kirk cries while Scoops body lie in his arms.

KIRK (CONT'D)

Oh God, Scoop!

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

The team gives final farewells to their teammate, friend and brother, Scoop.

Rain drizzles over a cloudy day at the Veterans Cemetery.

Scoop's casket is in front of an intimate procession as the MINISTER delivers the final words of the eulogy:

MINISTER

Ashes to ashes and dust to dust...

The team looks on as the loss of the part of their team stabs the heart of each man like a dagger.

INT. KIRK'S HOUSE - DAY

Kirk is in the living room playing video games with the kids. Sharon is in the kitchen making lunch.

The kids are beating the snot out of Kirk in the video game.

Kirk all of a sudden scores 1,000 points

KIRK

Yes, yes!

Kirk's video game avatar all of a sudden gets blown up by a bomb.

KIRK (CONT'D)

Awww.

JOSH

(laughing)

Dad, you got blown up.

KIRK

What are you laughing at? I'll blow you up.

Kirk grabs Josh and starts tickling him.

The two wrestle on the living room floor.

Kirk, not wearing his prosthetic leg feels a sharp pain in his leg.

The two stop wrestling.

JOSH

Dad, are you alright?

Kirk is concerned at this sudden, strange pain.

KIRK

Yeah, yeah sure.

Sharon comes into the living room from the kitchen.

SHARON

Come on guys, lunch is ready.

JOSH

Umm, I'm hungry.

KIRK

Me too.

KITCHEN

Kirk, Sharon and Josh eat lunch at the kitchen table.

JOSH

Dad, are you a basketball star?

KIRK

No, I'm not a basketball star.

JOSH

Why do you spend so much time playing basketball, then.

KIRK

Because I need to practice so that I can be good at basketball to play better.

JOSH

You don't spend time with us anymore. Mommy says that she needs you to be home.

Kirk searches for the right words.

Sharon gets up and leaves the room.

KIRK

Josh, your daddy is always here for you and will always be here for you. I just need a little bit of extra time to play basketball.

Josh continues to eat his food.

Sharon reenters the kitchen.

SHARON

Josh, grandma's here to pick you
up for the weekend.

Josh finishes his lunch and heads into the living room.

KIRK

(to Sharon)
What was that all about?

SHARON

Josh is just being curious.

KIRK

I don't spend enough time at home?

SHARON

Josh may have overheard me talking
to myself, that's all.

Josh yells to Kirk and Sharon from the living room.

JOSH (O.C.)

Bye Mom. Bye Dad.

SHARON

Bye Josh.

KIRK

Bye Josh.

Josh leaves and the door closes.

KIRK (CONT'D)

Sharon, you know I'm doing

SHARON

--Of course, Kirk.

KIRK (CONT'D)

A lot of things are being
thrown at me here, a lot is
happening to me, you know
with Scoop and

SHARON (CONT'D)

--I know, Kirk, no need to
explain.

KIRK (CONT'D)

Well, I wanna explain.

SHARON

Lets just finish dinner.

KIRK

I don't need to finish dinner.

SHARON

Look, Kirk, please...I don't want to go down this road.

KIRK

Sharon, you know what the team means to me.

SHARON

Right, the team means a heck of a lot to you. I just want to...need to have you home sometime.

KIRK

I am home sometimes...right?

SHARON

Sometimes...right...yes...All that I'm saying is...we need you here.

KIRK

Sharon, you know how I feel about my team after all that is happening.

SHARON

I know that Scoop meant everything to you...that the team means everything to you... but your health, Kirk. You need to slow down.

KIRK

Not now, Sharon. I need to be there for the guys. I can't think about leaving, not now.

SHARON

Just hear me out.

KIRK

I'm listening.

Kirk and Sharon stand at opposite ends of the kitchen.

SHARON

I'm pregnant.

KIRK

Oh God Sharon not now.

SHARON

The doctor told me during the recent check-up.

KIRK

Geez, Sharon. We got enough on our plate.

SHARON

I know.

Silence.

Sharon's phone rings.

Sharon checks her phone.

INSERT - The phone reads:

HAIR APPOINTMENT 4:00 PM.

SHARON (CONT'D)

I have to go to my hair appointment. Lets talk later.

Sharon leaves.

Kirk is left alone in the kitchen, thinking about what has happened and what is to come.

KIRK'S BEDROOM

Kirk is folding clothes, he comes across a picture of the team with Scoop, reminisces of Scoop and all that Scoop has taught him. Sobs.

Kirk all of a sudden becomes angry and starts to slam the dresser, tosses the contents on top of the dresser onto the floor, weeps and softly cries.

INT. TELEVISION SHOW SET - DAY

Kirk is on set for another shoot.

The set is bustling and busy.

The cast and crew is preparing for a route clearing scene where the actors are inside a man's home interrogating the prisoner.

DIRECTOR
AAAAaannnnddd action.

The actors perform the scene.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
AAAAaannnnddd cut! That's it
folks. That's a wrap.

The actors disperse and the crew embarks on the set to begin clean-up.

The Director has a side-bar conversation with Dusty.

Kirk stands by himself in the corner, observing Dusty and the Director have an intense conversation.

The Director and Dusty look over to Kirk again and finish their conversation.

Dusty walks over to Kirk.

DUSTY
Hey, Kirk.

KIRK
What's up? You guys talkin' about
me?

Dusty seems hesitant and distraught in his answer.

DUSTY
Um, yeah.

KIRK
What did he say?

DUSTY
(hesitant)
He said a lot of things, Kirk.

Kirk starts to get an eerie feeling in his chest.

KIRK
What?

DUSTY

I don't know how to say this,
Kirk. The Director told me to let
you go.

Kirk's heart sinks into his gut.

KIRK

Is this for real?

DUSTY

Yeah...it's for real.

KIRK

This is bullshit.

DUSTY

The studios can't afford to take
on the risk of having you on board
after the fainting spell. The
insurance won't cover them.

KIRK

Geez, Dusty, I got nothin' else.

DUSTY

I know what you're going through,
Kirk. I know how much you needed
this gig, man.

KIRK

Yeah, right.

DUSTY

Look, the studio has a veterans
organization. Check it out.

KIRK

Whatever, man. Thanks for trying.

Kirk walks away in disgust.

DUSTY

Hey Kirk, don't be that way.
Kirk!!

Kirk doesn't acknowledge Dusty, just walks off of the
set.

DUSTY (CONT'D)

Kirk!!

INT. COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS CENTER - DAY

The team holds one last practice before the Paralympics.

There is something missing about this practice.

It's almost as if there was a ghost-like presence on the basketball court.

Things are a little strange without Scoop.

The team and staff are going to miss him dearly.

COACH JAMES

That was good team. Let's keep it going 'til the end.

From nowhere, a female KATHERINE "KAT" THOMAS, 30's, African-American with braided hair, wheels onto the court.

Coach James notices her.

COACH JAMES (CONT'D)

(to the team)

Alright team that's it. Let's take a break.

The team takes their last shots and makes their last passes and wheels over to Coach James.

The team forms a semi-circle around Coach James.

COACH JAMES (CONT'D)

Team, as we all know we are missing one of our own to a tragic event over the past few weeks. And as you know, we must move on to get to the Paralympics.

The team looks on at Coach James.

COACH JAMES (CONT'D)

I want to introduce you to your new teammate...

(to Katherine)

Katherine.

The team gives a low clap.

Katherine wheels to the center of the group next to Coach James.

KATHERINE

Hi everybody. My name is Katherine, but you can call me Kat. I'm from Dallas. I was medically discharged from the Army a year and a half ago.

JASON

Welcome to the team Kat. If you work hard, can stand bad jokes and Carmelo's horrible singing, you're gonna make it.

The room laughs.

CARMELO

You're just hatin' on my fame, Jason.

COWBOY

Carmelo is the next Rick James.

The room laughs again.

COACH JAMES

Scoop hit us hard, real hard. I know a lot of you were thinking about what we're going to do next. Scoop was our rock and we could never truly get over him.

(beat)

I miss him. He was like family to all of us. He was our friend, he was our brother.

(reminiscing of
Scoop)

We will not forget you Scoop. You are our brother and we'll honor your memory whether we win or lose.

COWBOY

We miss you Scoop.

JASON

We miss you Scoop.

CARMELO

We miss you Scoop.

KIRK

We miss you Scoop.

CARMELO

(singing)

I've got sunshine...on a cloudy
day...

The rest of the team starts to chime in.

EVERYBODY

(singing)

I...guess...you...say...what can
make me feel this way...my girl,
my girl, my girl...talkin' 'bout
my...girl.

The team reflects for a moment then returns to practice
with their new teammate, Kat.

COACH JAMES

Let's get back to practice gang.

Carmelo tosses a pass to Kat.

CARMELO

Hey, Kat. Here.

Kat catches the ball, drives to the hoop, hits the jump
shot.

The team cheers.

EVERYBODY

Yay, Kat!

Kat blushes.

KATHERINE

Thanks, guys.

COWBOY

We're ready now.

KIRK

Colorado here we come.

The chant of "We-Ready" plays as the screen fades to black.

The team continues to play basketball and shoot around.

INT. KIRK'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kirk sits in front of his television.

A news program on the local news highlights an organization that helps special needs individuals.

NEWS REPORTER

(RE: The Children in
the video)

The organization: Hearts for
Hearts helps young people with
disabilities realize their dreams.

A segment of the video shows a child meeting a baseball player.

NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D)

The Hearts for Hearts program
recently helped Joey Mason a
cancer patient in Children's
Hospital meet his baseball hero,
Clayton Kershaw of the Los Angeles
Dodgers.

The video shows a Dodgers player giving Joey Mason a baseball and taking a picture with him.

Kirk looks at the news presentation, thinks to himself, then moves for the telephone to make a call.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

Hello.

KIRK

Heart for Hearts?

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

Yes.

KIRK

My name is Kirk Jennings and I
have a story to tell.

INT. COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS CENTER - DAY

Coach James is in his office by himself, packing up his things, ready to leave early for the day, he hears a commotion outside.

Coach James walks over to his window, looks out and sees a gathering of people, a large crowd outside of his window.

Coach James bolts outside to see what's happening.

As Coach James walks to the crowd of people he sees that in the center of the crowd are some very familiar faces...

It's Kirk, Jason, Cowboy and Carmelo giving a talk on the Combat Wounded Warrior Program.

NEWS REPORTER

We're here with a few participants
of the Combat Wounded Warrior
Program. Could you please
introduce yourselves.

KIRK

Hi, I'm Kirk.

CARMELO

Carmelo here.

JASON

My name is Jason.

COWBOY

(singing)
I'm Cowboy.

NEWS REPORTER

Could you tell us a little bit
about the program and why you
think it's so important to the
community.

KIRK

This wonderful organization gave us the ability to dream again. It gave us a second chance at living through basketball.

CARMELO

I may not have my legs, but I got my life back.

NEWS REPORTER

(to Jason)

And you...

JASON

The program gives me a deeper sense of being a person and how being a person makes for being a better team. And now that team is my extended family.

Cowboy steps up and snatches the mic.

COWBOY

These guys put in me something I never could put in myself...courage. I got the courage to fight again and to live again. Coach James inspired us to be better as a team than we could ever be as an individual.

Coach James approaches the crowd.

KIRK

Coach James!

NEWS REPORTER

(to Coach James)

This must be Coach James.

(then)

Coach, do you have a few words for the audience.

Coach James, hesitatingly, approaches the News Reporter.

COACH JAMES

I'm Coach James. What this program means to me is the opportunity to give back to not just this team but to give veterans past, present and future a second chance in life.

NEWS REPORTER

Thank you. The Combat Wounded Warrior Program--as you can see--helps disabled and amputee veterans get a second chance at life through sports and other programs. If you want to give donations, please visit the website for KPLA news and donate.

Coach James snatches the microphone again.

COACH JAMES

Thanks so much.

The team and the crowd wave to the camera.

INT. LAX INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Coach James, Kirk and the rest of the team board the planes to leave for the Paralympic Games.

Coach James says goodbye to his family.

Kirk says goodbye to Sharon.

The rest of the team says their goodbyes to their respective family members.

ON THE PLANE

Coach James and Kirk sit next to each other on the plane.

COACH JAMES

(to Kirk)

You ready for this.

KIRK

As ready as I'll ever be.

Charles Montgomery makes an announcement to the team.

CHARLES MONTGOMERY

Hey gang, I just got word from headquarters that donations are pouring in as a result of the news program you guys did. We have enough money to keep the center open for a few years.

The plane explodes with cheer.

EVERYBODY

Yeah.

The team exchanges hi-fives and hugs.

Background music plays.

INT./EXT. PARALYMPIC GAMES - LONDON - DAY

Wheelchair basketball, track and field, archery, you name it as fans from all over the world pour into the stadium to watch the Paralympic games.

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT - DAY

Coach James, Kirk and the team are shining like stars on the international stage.

Swoosh.

Kirk hits a long-range jumper against a Japanese player in the preliminary games.

AAAAAANNNNNTTTTT.

The buzzer sounds and Kirk and the team advances to the semi-finals.

KIRK'S TEAM

It's the semi-finals and Kirk's team is playing against a Netherlands team that's tough.

Swish.

A player from the other team hits a jumper.

Kirk's team is up two points with 30 seconds on the clock.

Clang.

The other team misses a shot.

Jason gets the rebound, he passes it to Cowboy.

Cowboy take the ball down the court, he passes the ball to Kirk.

Kirk passes the ball to Carmelo,

Carmelo drives to the hoop and makes a lay-up.

Score!

The Coach James team wins!

They're going to the finals.

INT. PARALYMPIC GAMES - PRESSROOM - DAY

A press conference announcing the final teams in the wheelchair basketball tournament: The American team, led by Coach James and the CANADIAN TEAM led by COACH CARLISLE, 50's, amputee.

A NEWS REPORTER sits between the two men on a podium to talk about the upcoming event.

NEWS REPORTER

I just want to say congratulations to the two teams that will be playing in the tournament finals: Coach James and the American team and Coach Carlisle from Canada.

COACH JAMES

I just want to say that it's a pleasure and an honor to be here. My team came a long way and has been through a lot of trials and tribulations and I just want to go out there and play hard.

NEWS REPORTER

(to Coach Carlisle)

Coach Carlisle, your team won the tournament last year and battled to be back in the finals this year. Any reflections on the road back to the finals?

COACH CARLISLE

The road to get to here was a trial for each and every team that deserves to be congratulated for their achievement. Every team deserves to be congratulated on their achievements in this tournament.

NEWS REPORTER

These teams not only endure athletic hardships but some of them are battling against reintegration into society. How do you think these teams help or hurt them?

COACH JAMES

My team has built a second family through this team. It is an avenue for them to bond with people who face the same struggles as them. They care about each other.

COACH CARLISLE

I second that. I build teams that care about each other. We win together and we lose together. I won't accept anything less than 100% commitment to themselves and the team.

NEWS REPORTER

Well, gentlemen thank you for taking the time to speak to us today and good luck in the tournament.

COACH JAMES

Thanks.

COACH CARLISLE

Thank you.

Coach James and Coach Carlisle get up and leave the podium.

HALLWAY CORRIDOR

Coach Carlisle wheels up to Coach James and introduces himself.

COACH CARLISLE

(calling to Coach
Jackson)

Coach, hey coach. Coach Jackson.

Coach James turns around.

COACH JAMES

The name is Coach James.

COACH CARLISLE

Oh, Coach James.

(then)

Look, I've been meaning to say congratulations. You did a great job out there bringing those guys up from such a tough situation.

COACH JAMES

Thanks. That means a lot coming from you.

COACH CARLISLE

Hey, I heard what happened. You know, with one of your guys going down and I just wanted to say...

COACH JAMES

(interrupting)

--No need to say anything.

Coach Carlisle is silent.

COACH CARLISLE

I just want to say good job, man.
Good luck out there.

COACH JAMES

Thanks. You too.

Coach James pats Coach Carlisle on the shoulder and walks away.

Coach Carlisle looks at Coach James as he walks away.

INT. PARALYMPIC GAMES - FINALS - DAY

Coach James' and Coach Carlisle's teams get ready to meet each other for the tournament championship.

COACH JAMES LOCKER ROOM

Coach James gives his team a pep talk before the big game.

COACH JAMES

We made it team. We made it as a team and we will continue to move forward into this game as one team. I asked you for everything and you gave more than I could ever have asked for. Let's go out there and give the fans more than what they asked for. Let's give them us.

The team and the room cheers.

The room is filled with hope and cheers.

Out of nowhere, a familiar face enters the room.

Kirk looks up at this familiar face and his face lights up like a fire--

It's Sharon.

Sharon walks over to Kirk and gives him a hug and a kiss.

KIRK

What are you doing here?

SHARON

I'm so sorry for not supporting you through this.

KIRK

You don't have to be sorry.

Kirk and Sharon hug again.

KIRK (CONT'D)

(to the room)

I wanna say something...

The room quiets and focuses on Kirk.

KIRK (CONT'D)

We have been waiting for this very moment and paid for it with our tears...and even our blood. We all know how much this team and this game means to us and to those who care about this team. Whether we win or lose...we can't let them down. We will not let them down.

CARMELO

Let's get out there and do what we do best.

COWBOY

We ready now.

JASON

We've always been ready.

COACH JAMES

This is for everybody who ever believed in us. This is for Scoop.

The team and everyone in the room begins to cheer.

COACH CARLISLE LOCKER ROOM

Coach Carlisle gives a pep talk to his team.

COACH CARLISLE

We didn't quit, did we? We lost people. We cried and we struggled, but we never ever quit. This is our game and we don't quit until that buzzer sounds. Is that right?

The team is silent.

COACH CARLISLE (CONT'D)

Is that right?

EVERYBODY

Yeah.

COACH CARLISLE

Lets go out there and show the
games why we are here and deserve
the trophy. Let's go get it.

The room cheers.

INT. PARALYMPIC GAMES - DAY

Fans pack the seats to watch the final game of the
wheelchair basketball finals as people from around the
world: North America, South America, Europe, Africa, look
on.

Sharon sits in the crowd and watches Kirk and his team
compete for the championship.

Coach Carlisle and his team prepare to take the court.

Both teams take center court.

BUZZER SOUNDS.

The game begins.

Both teams play great basketball.

Swoosh.

Coach Carlisle's team scores first.

Swish.

Coach James' team scores with a jumper from Kirk.

The teams are at it back and forth.

COACH JAMES

That's right team. Let's do this.

COACH CARLISLE
(to this players)
Hey, hey, get on your man. Stay
on him.

DISSOLVE TO:

The game is tied and the ball belongs to Coach Carlisle's team.

SLOW MOTION

The point guard travels up the court.

He passes the ball to one of his men who passes it to another who passes it to another.

END SLOW MOTION

The ball is passed to the shooting guard who takes the shot--

He misses.

Jason rebounds the ball.

He passes it to Carmelo, who passes it to Cowboy, who passes it to Kat.

Kat shoots, makes the shot.

The Canadian team gets the ball back, travels down the court, shoots...

They score.

All tied up.

Out of nowhere Kirk bolts down the court, a player from the Canadian team follows him.

Jason lobs a pass to Kirk, Kirk catches the ball shoots the lay-up--

He misses.

The bench growls with anguish.

A whistle blows.

Kirk was fouled.

A REFEREE approaches Kirk.

REFERREE

A foul on number 22. Two shots.

Kirk approaches the foul line.

SLOW MOTION

Kirk approaches the foul line...

Shoots.

Swoosh!

One point.

Kirk bounces the ball for the second shot, pauses, looks around.

Kirk sees Coach James look at him in angst.

COACH JAMES

Come on, Kirk, you can do it.

Kirk looks around and sees Sharon.

SHARON

Come on, Kirk.

Kirk looks around, sees Coach Carlisle and his team.

Kirk blacks out for a moment, hears an I.E.D. go off in his mind, reawakens and sees nothing but the court.

Kirk thinks for a moment....

Shoots the basketball.

Swish!!!!

END SLOW MOTION

The crowd goes wild!

Kirk wins the game for his team.

Coach James and the rest of the team leave the bench.

Everyone surrounds Kirk to cheer him.

AWARDS CEREMONY

Trophies are being handed out to the participants of the tournament.

An ANNOUNCER, gives Coach James and his team the tournament trophy.

ANNOUNCER

...and the tournament champions
for this year's warrior games
belongs to Coach James and his
team.

The crowd cheers.

Coach James approaches the podium.

COACH JAMES

I want to thank the fans here and
at home for supporting our team.
I would like to commend Coach
Carlisle and his team for playing
such a great game. Scoop this is
for you.

The crowd cheers again.

The team huddles together and hugs.

KIRK

I know you hear us, Scoop.

The team raises their hands in victory.

A STILL FRAME OF THE TEAM FREEZES IN THE MOMENT OF
VICTORY FOREVER.

EXT. SOMEWHERE IN THE VALLEY - DAY

A man, HARVEY BREEZE, 60's, scruffy, single, a Navy
veteran answers the door to see a man facing the street.

The man facing the street turns around to reveal...

It's Jason.

JASON

Dad.

HARVEY

Jason.

The two men hug.

EXT. LOS ANGELES MARATHON - DAY

Cowboy takes part in the Los Angeles Marathon.

POW!

The starter pistol goes off to start the marathon.

A swarm of runners burst from the starting line.

Cowboy strides off of the starting line.

SERIES OF SHOTS - COWBOY RUNS THE LA MARATHON

--Cowboy runs past Hollywood Boulevard.

--Cowboy runs past a cheering crowd.

--Cowboy runs past Dodger Stadium.

Thoughts of failure and a multitude of let-downs followed by a few nasty spills on the track flood his mind.

COWBOY (V.O.)

I never felt so scared, yet so
brave in my entire life.

--Cowboy runs down the street and begins to reminisce.

COWBOY (V.O.)

As a boy, I dreamed dreams. As a
man I chased dreams and made them
memories.

FLASHBACK

We see flashbacks of Cowboy playing in a wheat field in Oklahoma where he grew up.

END FLASHBACK

Cowboy approaches the finish line.

An onlooker holding an American flag passes it to Cowboy.

Struggle, fear, anguish cover Cowboy's face.

He gets tunnel vision.

It's just him and the white strip on the ground.

Cowboy struggles to make it to the finish line, but he's not quitting.

A posse of veteran supporters emerge from the crowd to run with Cowboy.

Everybody's cheering on Cowboy!

Swooooosshhh.

Cowboy crosses the finish line!

The fans cheer and Cowboy's family come to congratulate and hug him.

Cowboy looks up to the fans, then to the sky...

COWBOY (V.O.)

Today my dreams came true.

INT/EXT. AIRPORT HANGER - DAY

Carmelo, escorted by his wife and children, arrive at an airplane hanger at a nearby airport in a limousine.

Carmelo exits the limousine, blindfolded as his wife, LISA, 30's, guides him the airport hanger where a CREW OF MEN await.

Lisa uncovers the blindfold.

CARMELO

What's this, Lisa?

LISA

It's a surprise. These men want to help your dream of flying come true.

CARMELO

What are you talking about, Lisa?

LISA

These men heard you on the news
talking about your injury and how
you wanted to fly again.

Carmelo is stunned with joy as he turns to look at the
men standing in front of a helicopter.

One of the men approaches Carmelo.

MAN #1

Sir, if you don't mind. We want
to help you fly again.

Carmelo stares at the men with great joy as the men
escort Carmelo onto the helicopter.

As Carmelo flies over the city in the helicopter, we see:

SERIES OF SHOTS - CARMELO FLIES IN THE HELICOPTER

--The city landscape.

--The suburban landscape.

--Carmelo looking outside of the helicopter window
imagining himself flying as a bird.

--A flock of birds fly as Carmelo looks out of the
window.

EXT. A WOODLAND HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Kirk and Sharon pull up to an address at a Woodland Hills
neighborhood with a bow on the front door.

SHARON

Kirk? Where are we?

KIRK

I don't know, babe.

The door opens and a man, BRIAN, a representative of
Homes for Troops comes out to meet Kirk and Sharon.

BRIAN

Hi folks, welcome.

SHARON

Who are you and what is this?

KIRK
(to Brian)
Go ahead. Tell her.

BRIAN
Well, Ms. Jennings, welcome to
your new home.

SHARON
What? What is he talking about,
Kirk.

Sharon remains dumbfounded.

KIRK
Babe, these guys saw me on t.v.,
called me up, and offered to build
us this customized new home.

Sharon begins to fill with joy.

SHARON
Oh my God, Kirk! But we can't. We
can't afford a new home.

BRIAN
Ms. Jennings, everything is paid
for. We work from public and
corporate donations.

SHARON
I can't believe it.

Sharon bolts inside of the house.

Kirk and Brian follow.

INSIDE THE HOUSE

Sharon looks around the living room.

KIRK
They gave us brand new furniture,
too.

SHARON
It's beautiful!

BRIAN

On behalf of Homes for our Troops,
we thank you and your husband for
your service to our nation.

Sharon begins to cry.

KIRK

We did it, babe. We got our own
home.

SHARON

Thank you so much.

Sharon continues to look around the house.

Sharon waltzes to the master bedroom.

SHARON (CONT'D)

Look at this. No more sharing a
room with the kids.

Then to the kids' bedroom...

SHARON (CONT'D)

This is beautiful.

KIRK

We finally get to sleep alone.

And finally the bathroom.

SHARON

They even bought us towels.

KIRK

Look, the shower even has a rail
to help me get in and out. No
more maneuvering.

BASEMENT

Kirk pulls out a bottle of liquor from a hiding place,
looks at the bottle for a while...

Makes a decision...

Pours out the liquor until the bottle is empty.

LIVING ROOM - LATER

Kirk and Sharon watch television with the kids in their brand new home.

Sometimes life brings happy endings.

Super: Four months later

INT. HOSPITAL - E.R. - DAY

Kirk is being rushed to the hospital for complications resulting from vascular disease.

Boom.

The dual hospital doors burst open.

Sharon, panicking, is by Kirk's side.

Boom.

LATER

Coach James rushes through a set of hospital doors.

COACH JAMES

(to a receptionist)
Jennings, Kirk Jennings. Do you know where he is?

RECEPTIONIST

The second room to the left.

Coach James rushes to the side of Kirk.

COACH JAMES

Kirk, Kirk, I'm here for you man.

KIRK

Coach, coach...

COACH JAMES

What is it, Kirk?

Kirk struggles to get words out.

Kirk grabs Coach Jackson's hand, pulls him closer to whisper in his ear.

KIRK

(singing)

I...got...sunshine on a cloudy
day...

Coach James realizes what's going on and begins to softly sing with Kirk.

COACH JAMES

I...guess...you...say...

The two begin to sing together.

KIRK/COACH JAMES

What can make me feel this
way...sunshine...

The two release hands and Kirk lays back down and shuts his eyes.

Coach James stares at Kirk.

The bond between two men couldn't have been stronger than this moment.

SUPER: Kirk Jennings passed away from complications resulting from vascular disease two days later.

INT. ESPY AWARDS - NIGHT

A presentation of the ESPY awards are given at the Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles.

An ANNOUNCER broadcasts the name of the presenter for the award.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen, the
presenter for the Jimmy V
Perseverance Award is the one and
only, actor and philanthropist
Bradley Cooper.

GARY SINISE enters the stage.

GARY SINISE

The Jimmy V Perseverance Award is
presented to the athlete that has
exemplified courage and strength
despite the odds.

This person not only inspires and motivates themselves but they inspire us to be better people. This year the Jimmy V Perseverance Award goes to Kirk Jennings who is an amputee that has battled the loss of limbs, the loss of a friend and vascular disease to lead his team to the wheelchair basketball championships.

The crowd applauds.

A video showing Kirk and some of his pinnacle moments with his team are shown.

Sharon, Coach James, Carmelo, Jason and Cowboy take to the stage to receive the award as Sharon takes to the podium to say some words.

SHARON

Thank you ESPN for honoring my husbands' memory with this award. Thank you so much.

Coach James takes the award.

COACH JAMES

(tearful)

This award means a lot. Kirk meant a lot to us and showed us what courage and sacrifice and all the powerful traits of leadership and bravery looked like. Thank you Kirk for making all of us better people.

The crowd applauds.

MONTAGE - VIDEOS OF KIRK

--Videos of Kirk as a child play.

--Videos of Kirk joining the Army play.

--Videos of Kirk getting married play.

--Videos of Kirk going through therapy for his lost legs play.

--Videos of Kirk playing basketball with the Combat Wounded Warrior Program play.

--Kirk holding up the championship trophy from the Wounded Warrior games play...

Music plays in the background.

SUPER: WE'RE GOING TO MISS YOU KIRK.

FADE TO BLACK.